

**BOARD OF TAX ABATEMENT MEETING
APRIL 8, 2015**

Members Present: Kenneth Barrett, William Lindsay, Thomas Bock, Arunas Jonynas, Wanda Purdy, Debbie Trent, Cheryl LeClair, Patricia Budnick, Barry Fowler, Heather Chase, Tom Elgan, Ruth Douglas, Patricia Benelli, John DeBenedetti, Bruce Parks and Deborah Aldrich

Public Present: Victoria Cosgrove and Rose Noyes

Robert & Victoria Cosgrove, Jr. – 525 Snell Road – Parcel #252038

Chairman Barrett called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. and explained that the Board of Tax Abatement is re-opening the hearing of Robert & Victoria Cosgrove, Jr. and would now hear more testimony from Ms. Cosgrove. Chairman Barrett then addressed Ms. Cosgrove and explained that she would first present the additional information that the Board had asked for and then the Board would ask questions of her. Upon completion the hearing would be closed and the Board would again go into Deliberative Session. Ms. Cosgrove would then receive a letter with the Boards decision.

Ms. Cosgrove explained that for the last two years her family was living on her husband's Social Security Disability and they did not qualify for more benefits. Ms. Cosgrove also advised that she is up to date on her electric and telephone bills and last year she was only able to work for two months because of health issues. Ms. Cosgrove explained that her income tax return this year would be used to get her septic tank pumped and new tires for her car.

John DeBenedetti asked Ms. Cosgrove who owned her house. Ms. Cosgrove replied that she did. Mr. DeBenedetti asked if there was a mortgage on the property. Ms. Cosgrove replied that she has a mortgage with her parents.

Patricia Benelli asked Ms. Cosgrove what she thought she could pay a month on her delinquent taxes. Ms. Cosgrove replied maybe \$150.00 to \$200.00.

The Board asked Ms. Cosgrove a few more questions about her monthly income. The Board also encouraged Ms. Cosgrove to seek help from the Chester Andover Family Center and other agencies in the area.

Chairman Barrett then explained that we would close the Hearing, go into Deliberative Session to make a decision and a decision would be mailed to Ms. Cosgrove. Ms. Cosgrove and Ms. Noyes then left the Hearing.

Russell & Hannah Monier – 284 Elm Street – Parcel #585038.100

Chairman Barrett read a letter from the Board of Listers. (copy attached)

Patricia Benelli made a motion to abate \$265.25. Seconded by John DeBenedetti. Voted in the affirmative.

Discussion & Decision: Financial Information for Request for Tax Abatement Form

Patricia Benelli advised that the heading for the form will read "Financial Information for Request for Tax Abatement for Inability to Pay".

Tom Bock suggested that a line be added for any family member or individual who is contributing and on the last page space for any other circumstances the individual feels that the Board should now about.

William Lindsay advised that he felt that there should be a policy established.

Heather Chase stated that this form should be supported with documentation.

Patricia Benelli advised that there should also be an attest statement added to the last page.

Tom Elgan made a motion to accept the form with the changes. Seconded by Heather Chase. Voted in the affirmative.

Vice Chairman

Chairman Barrett advised that Derek Suursoo was voted in as Vice Chairman and is no longer on the Board. Deborah Aldrich nominated Tom Bock for Vice Chairman. Seconded by Patricia Benelli. Voted in the affirmative.

Cosgrove Deliberative Session

After discussion Wanda Purdy made a motion to deny the request to abate the taxes on the Cosgrove property. Seconded by Ruth Douglas. Chairman Barrett explained that a yes vote would be to deny the request to abate the taxes and a no vote would result in more discussion and another motion. The Board voted to deny the request for abatement of taxes on the Cosgrove property. Yes – 10 No – 5.

Ruth Douglas made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Patricia Budnick. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

A true record.

Deborah J. Aldrich
Town Clerk/Treasurer